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The University of Dayton

News Release

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS REPLACES THE FEB. 23 RELEASE ON HARRY EDWARDS, WHICH CONTAINED INCORRECT BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FROM EDWARDS' PUBLICIST.

EXPERT ON BLACK ATHLETES TO APPEAR FOR UD'S DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

DAYTON, Ohio, Feb. 27, 1990--Harry Edwards, the well-known black activist who lobbied for a boycott of the "racist" 1968 Olympic games in Mexico City, will appear at the University of Dayton on Thursday, March 22 at 8 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom on campus as part of UD's Distinguished Speaker Series. His talk is free and open to the public.

Edwards, a sociology professor at the University of California at Berkeley and team psychologist for the San Francisco '49ers, has focused his attention on the experiences of black athletes in college sports. He has written numerous articles on the topic for publications like Newsday and Sports Illustrated. Edwards, who is also a special adviser for minority concerns for Major League Baseball, has been featured on "Nightline" and "60 Minutes" for his research on the "dumb jock" syndrome--a stereotype he believes has been perpetuated by colleges that exploit black athletes.

"Student athletes have informally agreed to a contract with the universities they attend: Athletic performance in exchange for an education," says Edwards. "Athletes have kept their part of the bargain; universities have not."

A panel discussion of several UD alumni and staff will explore issues facing black athletes on Tuesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Virginia Kettering multi-purpose room. The free event is sponsored by UD's office of minority student affairs and several black Greek organizations.

The theme of this year's Distinguished Speaker Series is "America in the Age of Leisure." New York Post drama critic Clive Barnes and 1960s author Todd Gitlin, this year's other speakers, have addressed the way popular politics, religion and leisure activities have become important touchstones in the United States.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For advance media interviews, contact Harry Edwards at the San Francisco '49ers office, (408) 562-4949.

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